



**Larimer County Fair Board
Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2024, 6:30 pm**

The Larimer County Fair Board convened a regular session on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 6:30 P.M.

Present: Chair: Stephanie Morrison

Vice Chair: Logan Lenz

Secretary: Dana Luther

Board Members: Jay Crouse, Kristine Miller, Pat Young, Michelle Wilcox, Rebecca Walter, Darryl English (zoom), Vera Brown (Zoom)

Also Present: Larimer County Commissioner – Kristin Stephens, Ranch Director – Conor McGrath, Fair Competition Coordinator - Laura Boldt, CSU Extension 4 H Livestock Agent - Bailey Schilling (Zoom), Fair Queen – Maggie Livingston (Absent), Guests Present- Cindy Buckardt (Zoom), Sharel Cameron (Zoom)
Absent Members: Melinda Deal

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Stephanie Morrison called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Stephanie Morrison asked all present to introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Kristine Miller made a motion to approve the agenda, Pat Young seconded the motion. The Agenda was approved on a majority vote by the Fair Board Members 9-0. Motion passed.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Corrections to minutes were Becca Walter's last name, has no "s". Kristine Miller made a motion to approve the amended January minutes Pat Young seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a majority vote by the Fair Board Members 9-0. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence to report.

COMMISSIONER REPORT

Commissioner Stephens recognized the Fair Board members, including all Ranch Staff, for all of their help. Commissioner Stephens also reported that a great deal of work is being done at the State Legislature and ongoing conversations have been held with our Federal Delegation. Concerns have been voiced regarding finances at both levels and funds were reportedly frozen associated with work planned at Horsetooth Reservoir and Carter Lake. Additional financial constraints were reported in relation to Medicaid and Child Care.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Stephanie Morrison, asked for volunteers to help sell tickets at the 4-H Carnival Saturday March 1 2025, volunteers are asked to arrive by 9:45 AM at the Pederson Toyota Center.

FAIR BOARD PARTNERS / LIAISON REPORTS

- a. **Queen/Royalty** – 2025 Queen Maggie Livingston was Absent
- b. **Extension 4-H** – Livestock 4-H agent Bailey Schilling reported, Larimer County has the second largest 4-H membership in Colorado with 840 . The largest 4-H membership is Weld County having 930. Furthermore, Larimer County holds the first-place position in volunteer numbers, with approximately 231 volunteers this year, and an additional 12 currently undergoing background checks, which will bring our total to about 243.

Horse numbers were approximately 68, similar to last year's 74-75. We are endeavoring to implement comparable workshops and opportunities in the horse program as in the livestock program, aiming to foster growth.

This week, the swine orientation is scheduled for Friday. Goat orientation will take place the following week. The MQA session livestock field day recently featured guest lectures from professors and industry professionals on nutrition, meat animal evaluation, and industry standards, with the objective of providing youth with a solid foundation for success.

The beef weigh-in was highly successful, with 99 market animals tagged. Regarding membership in the livestock program, preliminary data indicates 64 or 65 market beef participants, exceeding last year's count. Beef numbers have shown a notable increase, and the catch-A- calf program expanded from 6 to 10 participants this year through a

partnership with the Larimer County Stockgrowers. This program involves county sponsors or producers donating calves to the association. Participants receive mentorship throughout the program, which has proven effective.

c. The Ranch, Rodeo & LC Sheriff's Posse -Conor McGrath recently had a trip to Savannah, Georgia which provided valuable insights for the planning of our new Convention Center Hotel. The Savannah Convention Center features 60,000 square feet of unobstructed exhibit space, exceeding the capacity of both the Blue and Pederson Toyota Centers. An additional site visit to a Kentucky Convention Center hotel with a distinct architectural design is scheduled.

Regarding the master plan, an extension of Showroom Road to Arena Circle is under consideration, incorporating roundabouts at both intersections to optimize vehicular traffic flow. Plans also include the development of new parking facilities along Show Ring Road, a 200,000 square foot Convention Center Conference Center, a new Convention hotel with a capacity of up to 300 guest rooms, and the repurposing of the Pederson Toyota Center into a youth sports complex. Furthermore, the Blue Arena and Pederson Toyota Centers will be interconnected to establish a unified ice facility.

The 2025 Larimer County Fair will be the final event held under the current layout, with site redevelopment commencing in September 2025. The new midway is projected to be completed by July 2026, followed by the Amphitheater in 2027. Phase one projects, including shooting sports facilities, wayfinding systems, and other civil landscaping and hardscape initiatives, are also in progress.

Investigations are underway regarding potential uses for the newly acquired northern land parcel and the optimal placement of a hotel within the Convention Center complex. Public forums and stakeholder communications will be forthcoming. The organization is also in the process of recruiting a strategic communications coordinator and an assistant director to manage the workload.

The naming rights agreement for the Mac Arena will expire in two days; however, signage will remain in place until a replacement sponsor is secured. In the interim, it is recommended to refer to the facility as the Livestock Pavilion or Livestock Barn.

d. Rodeo Board –The Rodeo board Chairman was not present, Conor McGrath shared that the Larimer County Sheriff's Posse are looking for ways to combine the Junior Rodeo and the PRCA Rodeo, while still keeping them as separate events.

e. Fair Coordinator -Laura Boldt also described the process of getting sponsors for the Larimer County Fair, including the different sponsorship levels and the benefits that

sponsors receive. Laura Boldt highlighted the importance of sponsorships in helping to cover the costs of awards.

The sponsorship initiative is underway, with approximately 987 awards ordered for 4H general projects, livestock areas, and open class. Each item requires sponsorship, with varying levels of contribution from individual sponsors. Specific emphasis is placed on securing buckle sponsors, at \$125.00 each. Sponsor names will be engraved on the buckles, necessitating early confirmation. Show day sponsors will receive banner recognition, name on back numbers, and promotional announcements during the event. Additional awards are available for contest winners in fitting, premier exhibitor, herdsmanship, and showmanship. Showmanship winners will receive banners, buckles and baseball caps, with further awards for those advancing to the Round Robin.

Judge hiring commenced after the first of the year, with ongoing efforts to secure commitments. Coordinating judge availability has presented some challenges. The Fair logistics and layout are under review, with potential adjustments to the schedule. A meeting with coordinators from Colorado State Fair, Douglas County State Fair, and Weld County State Fair is scheduled to discuss livestock area practices. Open class superintendents for baked goods and crafts are being sought to manage entries, judging, and displays. The 4-H general and family and consumer science book, along with the 4-H dog fair book, are undergoing adaptation from the state book for Larimer County before being posted on the website.

Laura Boldt also reported that for the Larimer County Fair we now have added more superintendents for beef, swine, and rabbits, ensuring each species now has two superintendents.

FAIR BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Ranch Hands – Kristine Miller reported that a scheduled meeting with a representative from the Greeley Stampede was postponed. Kristine Miller will reschedule the meeting in the near future.

A promotional flyer, featuring a QR code linking to the volunteer sign-up website, had been created and distributed. Attendees were encouraged to take flyers and share them with potential volunteers. Ms. Miller emphasized the importance of signing up on the fair website to complete background checks.

Regarding the flyer's dissemination, Kristine Miller encouraged its posting on Facebook and community pages to enhance volunteer recruitment. It was noted that social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram are valuable tools for outreach.

Kristine Miller clarified that she could provide email contact information and mentioned that her phone number is listed in the Volunteer Handbook.

Darryl English suggested to show a brief instructional video during the Fair Board meeting preceding the parade and to have a Sheriff's conduct the driving portion on the morning of the parade. This would streamline the process and reduce the time commitment for board members. Golf cart training was also discussed. The idea was proposed to integrate the training with the viewing of a short video during the Fair Board meeting before the parade, followed by a brief practical session on parade day.

The proposed schedule for the video presentation and training was set for the Fair Board meeting on July 23rd, 2025, with the parade scheduled for July 26th 2025.

b. Queen/Royalty – Maggie Livingston attended the Miss Rodeo Colorado Clinic. The Larimer County Queen clinic "Road to Royalty" is scheduled for March 30th, with Miss Rodeo Colorado 2024 Georgia Strimenos as the clinician. The clinic flyer has been developed, and there is significant attendee interest, including those participating in the pageant, whom we are encouraging to attend for preparation and information.

Maggie Livingston will have a booth at the 4-H Carnival on Saturday March 1st, 2025. Maggie Livingston will also be assisting with the Boulder County Queens Clinic, along with getting ready for the upcoming CSU Rodeo April 4, 5 & 6, 2025 at the Ranch. The Queen's committee is preparing for the BBQ and auction. The horsemanship clinic date and clinician are set for Thursday June 12th, 2025..

c. Pancake Breakfast – Jay Crouse provided an update that he will be in contact with Dana Drake at The Ranch to confirm sponsorships for milk, orange juice, and Nordys for meat.. Conor will invite the Commissioners and other government dignitaries. An Excel spreadsheet of contacts would be compiled and provided, relevant to the pancake breakfast. Discussion regarding music or entertainment was held, with preference expressed for just background music, to keep down the noise level in the tent.

d. Parade – Chairman Logan Lenz, has asked Pat Young to co-chair the Larimer County parade. The Current focus is getting the permits, and securing Sponsorships. It was confirmed the construction will not interfere with the parade on July 26th 2025.

e. Junior Livestock Sale – Logan Lenz reported the LCJLS will have a 3% Commission only on the live auction sales revenue. This policy will be reviewed if add-on revenue significantly increases while sales figures decrease. The purpose of this fund specifically supports the Junior livestock Sale, ensuring financial stability in

unforeseen circumstances. The Sale Committee will be presenting a plaque to Centennial Livestock in recognition of their valuable contributions. Members of the Sale Committee will be attending the MQA livestock Field Day. A tri-fold display will be available at the 4-H Carnival, about the Livestock Sale.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Work Plan Updates -Chairman Stephanie Morrison, asked that all sub-committees please send all updates to Dana Luther so she can update all the timelines.

b. Tracking volunteer hours in Vicnet -Chairman Stephanie reminded everyone to log their time. Reminder to all members to go back and enter any hours starting from the end of August. This includes phone calls, emails, or any volunteer work completed. Logging hours as you go is the easiest way to stay up to date. If you're having trouble entering your hours, please contact Laura Boldt.

c. By-Laws - The Fair Board Bylaws were voted on and approved at Tuesday's matters meeting and are now officially in effect.

d. Larimer County Member Training - All Board Members have been asked to prioritize attending the next meeting in person. A new process within the county, where board and commission member training will take place within the first quarter of each year. Training is scheduled to commence immediately after the Chairman's report at the next meeting. The training itself is brief and serves as a compliance measure. Materials will be distributed in advance to allow attendees time to review and ask any questions beforehand. The goal is to have this completed by March.

e. Review of Existing Procedures: The procedures for the Junior Livestock Sale have been circulated and reviewed by all LCJLS members and Fair Board members. Minor clerical corrections (spelling and punctuation) have already been made. A new amendment was proposed to address the inclusion of new members who may not have prior experience with the Junior Livestock Sale. The proposal recommends that new (first year) members serve a one-year term. After this initial term, members will be reevaluated and, if appropriate, appointed to a two-year term. This change is intended to provide flexibility for those unsure about a full three-year commitment and to ensure the committee consists of engaged, experienced individuals. The JLSC accepted the amendments to the LCJLS Procedures. After an open discussion, Logan Lenz made a motion to

accept the proposed change to accept the LCJLS procedures and Jay Crouse seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a majority vote of the Board Members 9-0. Motion passed.

g. Ad-Hoc Committee: The AD-HOC Committee was appointed by the Fair Board Chairman to interview applicants for open seats on the Junior Livestock Sale, and make recommendations to appoint new members, while recognizing that even if the Sale Committee accepts applicants there could potentially be final adjustments from the Fair Board. During the discussions, it was noted that there was a prior vote at the LCJLS committee meeting accepting 5 new members.. The Chairman of the LCJLS Committee asked for a motion to accept 4 of the new members Becca Walter, Josh White, Cassandra Clark and Jenny Brown. Kristine Miller made a motion to accept 4 new members and Pat Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a majority vote of the Board Members 9-0. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Next Fairboard Meeting- March 26, 6:30 PM McKee Building

Items for Executive Committee - No Items at this time

ADJOURNMENT- Logan Lenz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Pat Young seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a majority vote of the Board Members 9-0. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

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Chair: Stephanie Morrison _____

Secretary: Dana Luther _____